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TOP SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OUTGOING TELEGRAM

7. P.M.
2331
CONTROL 968
DEC 7, 1950

CIRCULAR TELEGRAM

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(60大)

TO
CERTAIN AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS
Cir 242

FOL is for your INFO and for such comments and suggestions as you may care to offer.

On NOV 29 DEPT had informal exchange of views with Allen, head CHOFF AF DEPT and BRIT MB REPS RE ANGLO-EGYPT Treaty question. DEPT outlined its tentative thinking as FOL:

1. UK CLD continue handle problem as they have done since World War II on QTE business as usual UNQTE basis. Recent INFO indicates CHOFF believes this policy still correct one and that by QTE playing by ear UNQTE EGYPTS can be kept talking, and Treaty will thus be kept in full effect. Chances this traditional policy succeeding depend on BRIT assumption EGYPT agitation is transitory emotionalism which WLD either wane by itself or CLD be bought off. We felt, however, this assumption of doubtful validity and CLD foresee possibility that continuance traditional UK policy might add fuel to fire EGYPT nationalism and might deepen bitter sentiment of kind still plaguing ANGLO-IRISH relations. Allen indicated BRIT policy RE EGYPT is in large measure dictated by requirements BRIT MIL who assert inflexibly that minimum BRIT requirements in Canal Zone is (a) striking force, (b) base ORG requiring APPROX 11,500 technicians and service troops, and (c) COOP ANGLO-EGYPT air defense ORG. Allen stated that even if BRIT MIL CLD be persuaded to agree to transfer from EGYPT of striking force there was no place in sight for it to go.

2. DEPT suggested that among alternatives open UK might be along lines of successful BRIT policy RE INDIA-U.K.-CEYLON, where equal-to-equal COOP has produced friendship in unexpected measure. We thought some such handing (without evacuation we WLD hope) WLD have at least a sporting chance of succeeding in EGYPT and might result in creation atmosphere in which EGYPTS WLD voluntarily collaborate with UK and Western powers in peacetime defense arrangements. Another possibility might be development area defense arrangements by ARAB States in which UK striking force CLD COOP as QTE respectable UNQTE partner on basis freely-given invitation of all ARAB League members. Possibility of some form multilateral arrangement involving US participation and US-UK security guarantee to EGYPT was also raised by BRIT. While DEPT did not RPT not exclude such possibility, we emphasized that thinking here WLD have to progress considerably further than at present to envisage such arrangement.

DEPT agreed present INTERNATL tension made boat-rocking dangerous this juncture but expressed thought that EGYPT feeling this time may be so strong that standard BRIT treatment may not RFT nd meet situation.

We made clear to BRIT that above thoughts in no way altered our policy of strong support for BRIT position in EGYPT and necessity for maintenance strategic facilities there in state of readiness. This policy recently restated in our talks EGYPT FONMIN and Assam Pasha and by US support BRIT approach SAG (DEPTEL 505 NOV 30 to CAIRO).

CLD ROOM: Send to AMEMB Jidda
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